should not be a loser any way. With regard to sanitation, there was some objection, but it could be removed by the construction of drains.

Dewan.—Is it a level ground or a hill side ?

Member.—Mostly level ground.

As it was the unanimous wish of the people of Mundakayam to have the market on the site proposed by him and as it was convenient to them and not in any way detrimental to Government, the Member submitted that Government might see their way to grant their request.

Dewan's reply.—The representation will be duly considered.

18. Need for the printing and publishing, by Government for sale to the public, of books containing original plans, divide plans and important particulars comprised in the *chittas*.

Mr. Varkki John (Member, Vaikom taluk) represented that, among the records relating to lands, the Survey and Settlement records were the most important and that the Settlement records were mainly based on the Survey records. Of the Survey records the most essential were the original plans, or the survey plans prepared by surveyors at the time of the actual survey of the lands prior to the Revenue Settlement. Those plans would show the side, off-set and linear measurements, were more than 30 years old and were preserved in the Taluk cutcherries. If any of them were lost, torn or otherwise destroyed, there was no possibility of replacing it. Further, the divide plans, next in importance to the original plan, were being frequently handled by officers in connection with *poramboke* and *pokkuvaravu* cases and in re-survey, and the chances of their becoming torn or being rendered useless were very great. Such records were strong weapons in the hands of mischievous revenue subordinates who could bring any registry-holder to trouble by starting proceedings under the Land Conservancy Regulation. The insertion of survey numbers of lands was always insisted on in documents and plaints and without the help of *pattas* or *chittas* it would not be possible to know the correct survey number of a piece of land. Copies of original plans would not be granted to persons other than the registry-holders except under special circumstances. The litho-plans, copies of which could be easily obtained, did not furnish the necessary information. It was pointed out that, in British India, a plan of the land was invariably granted to the *pattadar* along with the *patta* and that, in the Cochin State also, such plans were printed and were available for sale. The Member, therefore, suggested that a consolidated plan embodying the original and divide plans, with important particulars contained in the *chittas* and *pattas*, might be printed and published by Government for sale to the public for a moderate price.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

(2) FOREST.

19. Defects of forest administration and certain suggestions for remedying the same.

Mr. E. Narayanan Unnithan (Member, Kartigapalli taluk) observed that about one-third of the area of the State consisted of reserved forests and reserved lands which were a valuable asset to the State. Government had already resolved not to go in for further reservation. From the final report on the operations of the Revenue Settlement Department in the State, it would be seen that about 2,669 square miles still remained unsurveyed. The total area of the Reserved Forests till the close of 1093 was 2,383 square miles. No further extension of the area of Reserved Forests was thus necessary. He next referred to the Forest revenue which increased from Rs. 12,92,802 in 1089 to Rs. 15,15,293 in 1093. In his opinion the administration of the forests of the State during the 5 years from 1089 to 1093 really tended to bring about substantial loss to Government and could not be said to have ended in profit as it was reported to be. The expenditure of the department was

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more than one-half of the income derived from it and there was no sense of proportion between the income and the expenditure. The increase in revenue was due to the supply of timber to the P. W. D. and Panivagai Departments and the Devaswoms. The value of the timber thus supplied was only adjusted in the accounts; and the revenue shown by mere book adjustment was, strictly speaking, no income at all. Some increase in revenue also resulted from the enhancement of the tariff rates for timber and other forest produce.

The Member next pointed out that a very large staff had been maintained, the cost of which alone amounted to Rs. 2 and odd lakhs. Prior to the reorganisation of the Forest Department in the year 1072 there were, besides the Conservator of Forests, 3 Assistant Conservators and 12 Amindars. Subsequently, such a small staff had been increased to 3 Deputy Conservators, 7 Assistant Conservators, 31 Rangers, 17 Deputy Rangers, 61 Foresters and 260 Forest Guards. Thus, the cost of establishment was prodigious and he doubted whether such a large establishment was necessary.

He was of opinion that the administration of the Forest Department was really defective and highly injurious to the interests of the State as well as of the people. The loss incurred by the Government by the sale of timber to foreigners was not small. The people experienced great difficulties in getting timber for house-building purposes and did not derive the benefits anticipated with the cessation of the monopoly of sale of timber to the Bombay firm. With the abolition of the export duty on timber, foreigners found cheap markets for the purchase of timber. Consequently, the suffering of the people had become very intense. In spite of the orders of Government to sell timber at tariff rates to *bona-fide* local consumers, the grievances of the people in the matter were not remedied to any appreciable extent. He contended that the sales of timber to foreigners for less than the tariff rates should, on no account, be permitted. The sale of timber to the relations of the supplying contractors of the department was another source of loss to Government and to the people.

As regards coupe sales, he submitted that the condition of the forests in the State was entirely different from that of the forests in British India. The trees in the forests had not at any time been enumerated ; nor the actual yielding power of the forests ascertained. No regular working plans had been prepared after a careful survey and inspection of the forests. The value of the trees in the coupes selected for sale was in many cases estimated by the low-paid subordinates of the Forest Department. The difficulty in getting bamboos and boats was also keenly felt. He hoped that the present Conservator of Forests and his Assistants would sufficiently tour about in the interior forests and devise measures for the development of the economic resources of the State forests and also for the better management of the forests, preparation of working plans, &c., and for safeguarding the interests of Government. The Member then suggested the following remedial measures for the consideration of Government :—

(1) Sale depots should be established in places 10 or 15 miles distant from one another. The present staff should be sufficient to manage such depots.

(2) The number of Forest Ranges and Divisions should be reduced. The State might be divided into 3 Forest Divisions, *viz.*, Southern, Quilon, and Northern.

(3) Divisional Forest offices should be shifted from towns to forest areas and forest officers should be compelled to perambulate and study the real nature and condition of the forests under their control.

(4) Arrangements should be made for the sale of all varieties of timber to the people of the State in all the depots at tariff rates and sales should be under certificates issued by Tahsildars. Sales of timber so purchased should be prohibited. Depot officers should be authorised to conduct sales up to a certain limit.

(5) Contracts should be freely given for working down teak and blackwood from within the Reserved Forests.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

(6) Coupe sales should be stopped once for all. Timber should never be sold except from depots.

(7) Auction sales of timber in depots should be conducted only in Edavom and Mithunam, after meeting the demands of the Government departments and the people for timber.

(8) The property marks of the relations of the supplying contractors of the Forest Department should not be registered and such persons should not be permitted to carry on trade in timber. Property marks of timber merchants in towns alone should be registered.

(9) Better arrangements should be made for the capture of elephants and the collection of minor forest produce.

(10) The check-measurements of logs in depots should be made at least 10 days before the auction sale of the same.

(11) The export of timber should be prohibited till the present famine conditions disappeared.

Dewan's reply.—The representation of the Member will receive due consideration. The Member will do well to see the Conservator and explain to him in detail all that he said.

20. Desirability of dispensing with the present system of issuing free passes by the Forest Department for the removal of junglewood from registered lands.

Mr. K. Sankara Iyer (Member, Todupuzha taluk) submitted that the holders of registered lands had full rights of ownership on junglewood trees standing thereon, since they had paid for the same at the time of registry and that the restrictions placed on the removal of such trees over which they had complete control were not justifiable. On receipt of applications for the grant of free passes for the removal of such timber, the trees then found on the land were checked with the list of trees for which *thadivila* had been paid. If differences were observed, passes were not easily granted, though it had been clearly laid down in G. O. No. 2055 L. R., dated the 17th February 1914, that the registry-holder was not liable for such differences. It had also been ordered that, at the time of issuing free passes, Divisional Forest Officers need not ascertain the actual *thadivila* paid for at the time of registry of the lands. Government had been held liable for the loss incurred by the registry-holders on account of the delay in getting free passes (*Vide* 5 T. L. J. 153). The rules on the subject also required that passes should be issued within 15 days from the date of receipt in the Divisional Offices of the Forest Ranger's report on the application for passes. In spite of all the above clear orders of Government and the rulings of the High Court, passes were being issued according to the whims and fancies of the Divisional Forest Officers. The people were put to much hardship and loss thereby. Further, the insistence of the production of certificates from village officers and also of sketches of the lands mentioned in the application for passes caused immense hardship to the people and much unnecessary delay in the disposal of applications for passes. Thus, the obstacles in the way of getting free passes at the proper time were numerous and they contributed to enormous delays. The Member, therefore, requested that the system of granting free passes for the removal of junglewood logs from registered lands be done away with.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

21. Desirability of throwing open reserves for the extension of cultivation with a view to meet the increasing demand for paddy.

Mr. M. Thomman (Member, Peermade taluk) described the present economic distress brought on by war conditions and suggested that articles of food stuff required for the people of the State should be cultivated within the State itself. The action of the Government in getting down the necessary supplies from foreign places was really praiseworthy, but it was doubtful whether Government would be able to

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